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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Notes verbales dated 14 and 24 March 2001 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

A. Note verbale dated 14 March 2001

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, pursuant to its notes verbales of 23 January and of 28 February 2001, has the honour to communicate the following:

The flight of the Mir manned orbital station is nearing its final stage. One of the options for removing the station from orbit has now been selected; it involves the conduct of active, dynamic operations in the course of a 24-hour period.

The original estimated altitude of the circular orbit has been lowered from 250 kilometres to 220 kilometres in order to ensure a sufficient reserve of fuel on board for the dependable conduct of the final operations, which along with variable atmospheric conditions has led to a change in the planned date of re-entry and impact. In that regard, according to ballistic calculations, the concluding operation involving the Mir manned orbital station will be conducted, if all proceeds according to plan, on 21 March (plus or minus two days).

The area of impact of the station's unburned elements will be in the South Pacific, between 30° S and 53° S and 175° W and 90° W.

Further information can be obtained on the Internet, at web sites www.rosaviakosmos.ru and www.mcc.rsa.ru.

B. Note verbale dated 24 March 2001

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, pursuant to its notes verbales of 23 January, 28 February and 14 March 2001, has the honour to communicate the following:

The flight of the Mir manned orbital station is nearing its final stage according to plan.

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The conduct of the final dynamic operations with the station is scheduled for 23 March 2001.

On 23 March, at 0330 hours and 0500 hours (Moscow time), two impulses will be successively applied to begin the final re-entry orbit. At 0810 hours, the final braking impulse will be applied to bring the station into its final descent trajectory.

The unburned fragments of the station will impact in the South Pacific, between 30° S and 53° S and 175° W and 90° W.